

# The Newport Mercury.

NEWPORT, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1845.

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The Newport Mercury  
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY BY  
J. H. BARBER.  
No. 133, Thames Street.

TERMS—TWO DOLLARS per annum.  
Advertisements not exceeding a square  
sheet three weeks for \$1, and 17 cents  
will be charged for each subsequent inser-  
tion. All Advertisements, except where an  
account is open, must be paid for previous  
insertion.

No Paper discontinued (unless at the  
direction of the Editor) until arrears are  
paid. Single papers six cents, to be had at the  
office.

**PLAIN & FANCY  
JOB PRINTING,**  
SUCH AS  
BILLS, WAY BILLS, STEAMBOAT BILLS, HANDBILLS,  
PAGE BILLS, BILLS OF LADING, PAMPHLETS,  
BLANKS, BANK CHECKS, CIRCULARS, TICKETS,  
BUSINESS CARDS, CATALOGUES, BILL HEADS,  
NOTES, BILLS OF FARE, NOTIFICATIONS,  
LARGE SHOW BILLS, for Concerts,  
Public Meetings, Exhibitions, Lectures, &c.  
Promptly executed, at prices as low as those  
of any other establishment.

**STATIONERY, &c.**

STEEL PENS ; Lead Pencils ; Slate  
Pencils ; Ink Stands ; Wafers ; Pen  
holders ; Blue Ink ; Taylor's Black  
ink, superior to any other ; Ink Pow-  
er ; Writing and Letter Paper, of the  
best quality ; Quills ; Pencil Leads  
； Jack Sand ; Wallets ; Account Books  
of various sizes ; Commercial Blanks ;  
Bill Paper, &c. &c. For sale at No.  
33 Thames street, by

J. H. BARBER.

**Large Sales  
AND  
Small Profits.**

JOSEPH M. HAMMETT,  
TAILOR & DRAPER,  
No. 133 1/2  
THAMES STREET,

HAS selected in Boston expressly for  
this market, a large assortment of  
English and American Cloths suitable for  
the Fall trade, consisting of

Plain, Diamond and Double  
Wave BEAVERS ; Black,  
Blue and Fancy coloured  
BROADCLOTHS.

A choice selection of Cloths for Panta-  
pons, consisting of

Cassimeres, & Doe Skins,  
of all colors and shades.

**Vestings**

of the newest style, from the latest im-  
portations, and every other article called

or from a Tailoring establishment. All

who wish to purchase cheap, are invited

to give him a call.

**MOTTO.**

The nimble sixpence is better than the slow  
shilling."

We manufacture on the most reasonable  
terms, every description of

**Fashionable Clothing,**

Coats, Pants, Vests, Cloaks, Sacks,  
&c., constantly for sale, or will be fur-  
nished to order at short notice, and at pri-  
ces lower than can be purchased in town.

**CUTTING** particularly attended to,  
Newport, Sept. 28, 1844.

**R. P. BERRY,**  
**SURGEON DENTIST.**

Office at Mr. S. Peckham's in  
Church street, second house from Thames  
street.

**REFERENCES.**

James V. Turner, M.D. ; H. E. Turner, M. D.  
David King, M. D. ; H. N. Pierce ; of New-  
port.

L. Holmes, M. D. ; L. W. Briggs, M. D. ; of  
Bristol.

Newport, April 27.—

**NEW FRUIT.**

Oranges, Lemons, Coconuts,  
Figs, Prunes, Raisins,  
Grapes, Sultana Raisins,  
Apples of every kind,

And a great variety of Nuts, just re-  
ceived and for sale at the Confectionary  
and Variety Store of

Oct. 2. T. STACY JR.

## POETRY.

From the Universalist Quarterly for January.

### The Blind Girl.

By MRS. CAROLINE M. SAWYER.

Crown her with garlands ! mid her sunny hair,  
Twine the rich blossoms of the laughing May,  
The lily, snow drop, and the violet fair,  
The queenly rose that blossoms for a day.  
Haste, maiden, haste ! the hour brooks no delay—

The bridal veil of soft transparency bring :  
And, as ye wreath the gleaming locks away,  
O'er their rich wealth its folds of beauty fling.

She seeth now !

Bring forth the lyre of sweet and solemn sound  
Let its rich music be no longer still ;  
Wake its full chords, till, swiftly floating round,

Its thrilling echoes all our spirits fill,  
Joy for the lovely ! that her lips no more  
To notes of sorrow tune their trembling breath ;  
Joy for the young ! whose starless course is o'er !

Io ! sing paens for the bride of Death !

She seeth now !

She has been dark ! through all the weary years,  
Since first her spirit into being woke,  
Through those dim orbs, that ever swam in tears,

No ray of sunlight ever yet hath broke,  
Silent and dark ! herself the sweetest flower  
That ever blossomed in an earthly home,  
Untutored yearnings ever were her bower,  
And voiceless prayer that light at length might come.

She seeth now !

A lonely lot ! yet oftentimes a sad  
And mortal pleasure filled her heart and brain,  
And beamed in smiles—e'er sweet, but never glad—

As sorrow smiles when morning winds com-  
plain.

Nature's great voice had ever, for her soul  
A thrilling power, the sightless only knew :  
While deeper yearnings, through her being stole,  
For light to gild that being's darkened flow.

She seeth now !

Strike the soft harp, then I for the cloud hath passed,

With all its darkness from her sight away ;  
Beauty hath met her waiting eyes at last,  
And light is her's within the land of day  
'Neath the cool shadow of the tree of life,  
Where bright the fount of youth immortal springs,

Far from this earth, with all its weary strife,  
Her pale brow fanned by shining seraphic wings.

She seeth now !

Ah, yes, she seeth ! through yon misty veil,  
Methinks even now her angel eyes look down,

While round me falls a light all soft and pale,  
The moonlight lustre of her starry crown.—

And to my heart, as earthly sounds retire,  
Comes the low echo of celestial words

Like sudden music from some haunted lyre,  
That strangely swells when none awake its chords.

But hush ! 'tis past—the light the sound are o'er—

Joy for the taken ! she is dark no more !

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## Select Tales

From Arthur's Magazine.

### JOSEPH THE FIREMAN.

A TRUE STORY.

BY ALBERT ROWLAND.

General Assembly. In the year 1763 having accepted office from the English Government he became an advocate for the odious Stamp Act, which drew on him the vengeance of the people ; on the 27th of August a mob assembled and having placed the effigies of Mr. Howard and two other obnoxious persons in a cart, they paraded them thro' the streets, with halters about their necks. They were then taken to a gallows erected in front of the State House and hung ; and in the evening cut down and burned until the acclamations of thousands. On the day following the mob again assembled and proceeded to the house of Mr. Howard, which they destroyed or plundered of every thing it contained, demolished, the windows, doors, &c. Mr. Howard was forced to take refuge on board a British ship of war that then lay in the harbor. He estimated his losses at £270 sterling for which he laid his claims before the General Assembly, but never obtained any redress.

Mr. H. was appointed by the British Government Chief Justice of North Carolina, and held the place until the commencement of hostilities, when he retired to England.

AARON LOPEZ, was a native of Portugal and came to Rhode Island about 1746. He settled at Newport and was for many years considered the most eminent and successful merchant in New England. Before the Revolutionary war he owned more than 30 sail of vessels which were employed in the European and West India trades and the Whaling business. He and his father in law Mr. Rivera, were the first to introduce the manufacture of spermaceti in America.

Being of the Hebrew persuasion, he was the means of upwards of 40 families of Jews, many of them men of wealth and enterprise, settling in Newport who in 1762 built a synagogue.

In the midst of his prosperity, the Revolutionary war broke out, which put a stop to his enterprise and business ; he suffered great loss by the seizure of several of his vessels on distant voyages, and by the deterioration of the remainder, by being laid up for safety. On the British Army taking possession of Newport, he retired with his family to Leicester (Mass.) where he remained until 1782. On the 28th of May as he was on his return to Newport with his family, he was accidentally drowned in a pond about five miles from Providence. The accident was occasioned by driving his carriage to the edge of the pond for the purpose of watering his horse, when in an instant the quicksand gave way and immediately enveloped, horse, carriage and rider, in such a depth of water as rendered all attempts to rescue him unavailing. His body was recovered and brought to Newport and entered with every mark of respect in the Jewish Cemetery.

Thus was removed, in the meridian of life, one of the most eminent and useful Merchants that Newport ever had ; his loss may be considered as one of the greatest misfortunes that ever befel the town, cut off as he was preparing to renew his various enterprises and from his extensive business relations, there can be no doubt had he lived, he would have speedily retrieved his losses and greatly contributed to revive the business and trade of the place.

Mr. Lopez was a man of eminent probity and benevolence, his bounties were widely diffused and not confined to creed or sect, and the people of Newport notwithstanding the lapse of more than 60 years, still venerate his memory.

NICHOLAS COOK, was for many years a merchant of Providence previous to the Revolution, he sustained several important offices in the Colony ; he was Deputy Governor at the time of the Lexington battle when the Governor Joseph Wanton, being considered as having taken part in favor of the arbitrary measures of Great Britain, was suspended by the General Assembly from the functions of his office, and they devolved on Mr. Cooke, who the next year was elected Governor which he held until May 1778, when he retired to private life, with an honourable testimonial for his services and usefulness, from the General Assembly.

NEW YORK AND ERIC RAIL ROAD.—The Committee on rail roads in the House of Assembly have made a report on the petitions praying for a surrender of the State lien on the road, which has been printed and laid before the members. The committee after reviewing the legislation on the subject, arrived at the conclusion that the present lien of the State is of no actual value, that it is a material impediment to the company's obtaining the necessary funds to complete the road, and they therefore recommend that the lien of the State be released, on condition that three millions of money be subscribed to the road, and one fourth thereof paid in.—N. Y. Jour. of Com.

MR. CALHOUN is said to be about to make a peremptory demand upon the British Government, through Mr. Everett, for the delivery of a gang of 8 or 9 slaves who burned a house in Florida, and then escaped to Bermuda.

KILLED BY LIGHTNING.—A man by the name of John G. Rose, a seaman, sailing from South Kingston, R. I. was killed by lightning, last Friday week, on board of the schooner Elizabeth, in Mobile Bay.

NEW FRUIT.

Oranges, Lemons, Coconuts,

Figs, Prunes, Raisins,

Grapes, Sultana Raisins,

Apples of every kind,

And a great variety of Nuts, just re-

ceived and for sale at the Confectionery

will inform your officers of this deed, which, however, will not surprise them, for with you it is not an extraordinary effort, and shall not rest satisfied until you have obtained the just reward for the noble acts you have performed, and for the high virtues which distinguish you.'

During the outpouring of the heart, the companions of the young man emptied their purses into a hat, forming together, a sum of five or six hundred francs, which they now came forward to offer to the firemen as a mark of their gratitude and respect, but Joseph taking the hat, threw it upon the shore, scattering the pieces of gold and silver it contained in every direction, crying, as he did so, with noble dignity—

'Do you suppose that I have been actuated by pecuniary interest? All that I can accept of you, gentlemen, is a little refreshment, of which, I confess, I am in great need.'

Hardly had he uttered these words, when he was caught up in the arms of the young men and carried to a neighboring restaurant, where the festival of the morning was renewed; they treated Joseph as their equal, and honored him as a man dear to humanity. Many toasts were given, but that most rapturously received was the following—

'To the respectable body of firemen! I accept it in the name of my comrades,' said Joseph, 'and I dare assert that they will always show themselves worthy of the honor you do them.'

'Who can doubt it,' said young Descarville, 'when you are the surety.'

The countenances of all were radiant with joy, and his happiness was increased by the appearance of Baron Descarville, to whom his son had sent word of what had happened. He threw himself into Joseph's arms, and was so much moved that at first he was totally unable to utter a single word. He took the hands of the fireman, those vigorous hands which had saved the life of a loved son, and bathed them with tears. At last, recovering the use of speech, he burst out with,

'And I have been capable of suspecting, of accusing you of crime!'

'Do not say thing more about that, M. le Baron. The blow did not reach my heart, I must confess; but the wound is cicatrized now.'

'It will ever be my remembrance,' replied the baron; and since you will not be compensated in the manner which is so pleasing and exciting to officious zeal, I shall not rest until you have received that justice which is due to your heroism, and the many valuable services which you have performed.'

A few months after, Joseph received the star of honor from the hands of his colonel, who well knew how to appreciate him, and was soon promoted to the lieutenancy of the firemen, whom he commanded many years, exciting their warmest affection, and adding to their desire to imitate his example.

**SINGULAR PREDICTIONS OF THE WEATHER.**—February has certainly come in like a lion, and if the prognostications in the annexed paragraph are correct, it is not likely to show much of the lamb in its passage over our heads. Under the head of "atmospherical changes for February," Hague's Magazine, at Philadelphia, discourses as follows:—

"During February four planets, viz.: Saturn, Mercury, Mars and Venus, having the same declination, bespeak a singular month for atmospherical changes. The Sun's declination is also south; and during the first week and last three days, the Moon has south declination. The planets Mercury and Venus are in close conjunction all the month. On the 21st and 22d, both planets are in conjunction with Saturn, at the time of the full Moon. This winter will close with heavy falls of snow, high winds, enormous floods, fatal floods, and severe storms, destructive to navigation. We shall have weather of no ordinary kind for the season, and floods recorded not in the memory of man. I judge Southern countries suffer more than Northern; but all nations will bear witness to sudden, sharp, and keen frost, high, boisterous, snapping winds, with heavy falls of snow and rain."

To make correct daily predictions of the weather this month would be out of the power of the oldest and most experienced meteorologist. We ourselves being young in this department of science, and not having witnessed such aspects of the planets as take place this season, shall not attempt such a task. We would merely say that the first week will be characteristic for turbulent, blustering weather; with sudden fits of frost, snow and rain. The new Moon, on the 6th, a colder change, with frost and winds.—Heavy falls of snow, rain and sleet from the 8th to the 10th. Cold and frosty on the 11th and 12th; 13th, changes.—Heavy rains, snow and wind from the 14th to 17th. Frequent storms on the 18th, 19th and 20th. The full Moon on the 22d bespeaks soft, unsettled bad weather, till the first of March. Ice dealers will have to be active.

Hon. John Barney, of Baltimore, at the suit of Mrs. Mary Barney, for alleged defamation of character, has been mulcted in one cent damages, by the Baltimore city court. The *ad damnum* was laid at \$100,000. Some of the best ability of the young men of that talented bar were engaged in the case, which excited great attention.

New York Express.

## Twenty-Eighth Congress.

SECOND SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 5, 1845.

**SENATE.**—A message was received from the President relative to the present condition of the Mint.

After the presentation of numerous petitions, Mr. Huntington, from the committee on commerce, reported back the bill prescribing the duties of Collectors of the customs.

Mr. Evans, from the finance committee, reported back the post office, fortification and pension appropriation bills.

Mr. Benton offered the following bill for the Annexation of Texas, withdrawing a proposition—which it will be remembered he presented early in the session and which embraced a consent from Mexico, &c.

A Bill to provide for the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Be it enacted, &c., That a State to be formed out of the present Republic of Texas, with suitable extent and boundaries, and with two Representatives in Congress until the next apportionment of representation, shall be admitted into the Union, by virtue of this act, on an equal footing with the existing States, as soon as the terms and conditions of such admission, and the cession of the remaining Texan territory to the United States.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted.—That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated, to defray the expenses of missions and negotiations to agree upon the terms of said admission and cession, either by treaty to be submitted to the Senate, or by articles to be submitted to the two Houses of Congress, as the President may direct.

The bill was read a first and second time when a motion was made that it be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Berrien, Mr. Moorehead, Mr. Merrick, Mr. Barrow, and some others advocated its reference to the standing committee.

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The consideration of the bill, before the Committee, was then continued, and after acting on all the amendments, was agreed to. The Committee then rose and the bill was reported and finally passed.

The House then at 4 1/2 o'clock adjourned.

never known, save when the morning stars sang together for joy."

After a wearisome discussion, the vote was taken, and Mr. Simmons' bold movement was carried by a vote of ayes 33, nays 14.

Mr. Huger moved a reconsideration of the vote by which it was agreed to make two hundred dollars per mile the maximum of compensation upon Railroads for carrying the mail, and stated that a road between here and Charleston, S. C. could not carry the mail for this sum.

After another weary debate, the vote was taken by yeas and nays, and the point in question was reconsidered by a vote of 24, to 16.

The Senate then went into executive session and afterwards adjourned.

**HOUSE.**—Mr. Kennedy, of Md., appealed to the House to indulge him, by having the resolution submitted by him some time ago, calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for any instructions given by him in reference to duties on wines, &c. The appeal was responded to and the resolution was passed.

The Committee of the Whole resumed the consideration of the Annual Indian Appropriation Bill.

The bill was debated at great length and variety of amendments were offered, some of which were adopted and others rejected.

During the discussion, quite an acrimonious personal controversy arose between Mr. Black, of Ga., and Mr. Giddings, of Ohio.

The consideration of the bill, before the Committee, was then continued, and after acting on all the amendments, was agreed to. The Committee then rose and the bill was reported and finally passed.

The House then at 4 1/2 o'clock adjourned.

FRIDAY, Feb. 7, 1845.

**SENATE.**—A communication was received from the President, touching the relations between the United States and the Mexican Republic, with a report thereon, from the Secretary of State.

The Post Office Bill was taken up, the question being upon Mr. Huger's amendment, providing that the compensation to be allowed to Railroad Companies for carrying the mail be not more than now allowed.

After a long controversy the following was the vote.

Yea—Messrs. Barry, Bayard, Berrien, Clayton, Crittenden, Dayton, Evans, Foster, Francis, Huntington, Johnson, Merrick, Miller, Morehead, Pierce, Phelps, Porter, Rives, Simmons, Upshur, White and Woodbridge—22.

Nays—Messrs. Allen, Ashley, Atchison, Atherton, Benton, Breese, Buchanan, Colquitt, Dickinson, Dix, Fairfield, Hannegan, Haywood, Huger, Jarnigan, Lewis, Niles, Sevier, Sturgeon, Tappan Walker and Woodbury—23.

The consideration of Mr. Merrick's Post Office bill was then resumed.

**HOUSE.**—The bill to reduce the price of the public lands was debated till one o'clock, when by a vote of 103 to 95, it was laid on the table. This is the last of it.

The Indian appropriation bill was then considered in committee of the whole, without any definitive action thereon.

THURSDAY, Feb. 6, 1845.

**SENATE.**—The Post Office bill was taken up.

Mr. Merrick expressed a hope that it would be voted upon and not talked about, so that it may be finally dispatched this day.

Mr. Buchanan's amendment to the amendment of Mr. Simmons was rejected—yeas 17, nays 24. This amendment allowed members to send five free letters per diem.

The question was then upon Mr. Simmons' amendment, which gave members an unlimited right to frank their letters and speeches. The Senators could not help talking about this, but after they had done, the yeas and nays were called, and the franking privilege was given up by a vote of yeas 18, nays 29.

On motion of Mr. Simmons it was then agreed, that whatever free matter was sent through the mails should be paid for out of the various contingent funds of the different Departments.

The bill was further amended as to leave the franking privilege as it was on the 20th, and it was then passed to be engrossed, and ordered to be printed.

**HOUSE.**—A great variety of reports were submitted.

Mr. Burke from the joint committee to recommend a mode of counting the votes for President and Vice President of the U. S. reported a resolution that both branches of Congress meet in the Chamber of the House of Representatives on Wednesday the 12th inst.—that the teller be appointed, who shall count the votes and that the result be announced by the President of the Senate; which resolution was concurred in.

After acting upon other business of little general interest the House adj.

SATURDAY, Feb. 8, 1845.

**SENATE.**—The bill providing for appeals in certain cases of bankruptcy was discussed by Messrs. Berrien, Haywood, Choate, Dickinson and others; when without taking any question it was temporarily laid aside.

The Post Office Bill was taken up with a view to its third reading, by unanimous consent. The 16th section having reference to franks and envelopes was stricken out. By unanimous consent (objection to embracing Mr. Tyler having been waived) the franking privilege was extended to all ex-Presidents of the United States. The question on the passage of the bill was then taken by yeas and nays, and it was passed by a vote of yeas 37, nays 12.

After spending some time in Executive business, the Senate adjourned.

**HOUSE.**—Some unimportant business was disposed of; and the Secretary of the Senate delivered the bill adopted by that body, for regulating and reducing the rates of postage, and to prevent frauds upon the Post Office Department. Adjourned.

MONDAY, Feb. 10, 1845.

**SENATE.**—Mr. Choate presented a memorial against the annexation of Texas.

Mr. Bayard reported a bill for the establishment of naval schools.

On motion of Mr. Evans, the Senate took up the three appropriation bills passed by the House some days ago. These bills were severally read a third time and passed, viz.: the fortification, pension and post office bills.

A motion was made to adjourn, upon which the yeas and nays were called. The vote was—aye 69, nays 84.

Mr. Choate addressed the Senate.—These claims, he said, have been urged for more than thirty years. Of twenty-two reports made upon the subject, eighteen have been favorable; thirteen state Legislatures have also proclaimed the justice of these claims.

Hon. John W. Smith, a Senator in Congress from the county of Bexar, died in Texas on the 12th ult.

Mr. C. then made a succinct statement of the origin of these claims, and summed up with the conclusion that counter claims of France against this Government, but not against these claimants, were paid by a surrender of these claims.

After making a brief and eloquent appeal to the Senate, Mr. C. proposed an amendment which materially alters the bill, by providing an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to settle these demands, instead of a commissioner to ascertain and report upon these claims.

Which was agreed to, and the bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, yeas 26, nays 15.

Mr. Colquitt gave notice of a bill to remit duties on railroad iron, in certain cases.

The Senate then adjourned.

**HOUSE.**—Mr. Dana, by general consent, reported a bill to graduate and reduce the price of public lands in favor of settlers, and to apply the proceeds thereof—read twice and referred.

Mr. Duncan submitted a resolution directing the committee on public buildings to confer with Prof. Morse on the subject of an improvement made in taking the year and nays. It was adopted.

A motion was then made to take up the bill providing for the admission of Florida and Iowa into the Union as States.

An amendment offered by Mr. Duncan of Ohio, in relation to the boundary between Iowa and Missouri, gave rise to considerable debate.

Before the discussion ended the committee rose.

Some further unimportant business was transacted, when the House adjourned.

TUESDAY, Feb. 11, 1845.

**SENATE.**—The War Department transmitted a report from the Colonel of the Corps of Topographical Engineers, respecting magnetic observations made at the Girard College. Also, a communication respecting the copper mineral region of Lake Superior.

The various bills, &c., of yesterday, ordered to engrossment, were taken up and passed, except that concerning French Spoliations, which at the instance of Mr. McDougal, was postponed until Thursday next.

Mr. Archer called up the House bill, to purchase Greenough's work on Oregon—which, after some remarks against it by

Mr. Allen, who observed that the government of the United States had become an extensive book dealer, it was passed by a vote of 30 to 18.

A question arose upon the expediency of commencing the discussion of the joint resolutions of the House for the annexation of Texas to the United States.

Mr. Sevier said he would waive the call for the yeas and nays, and the subject was passed over until Thursday.—So on that day commences the "tug of war" in the Senate.

A joint resolution, authorizing the Postmaster General to contract with Railroad Companies, in certain cases, without advertising as required by law, was passed. The Senate then adj.

**HOUSE.**—On motion of Mr. Hopkins, of Virginia, the postage bill was read twice and referred to the committee on post offices and post roads.

The House then took up the orders of the day, which were the bills relating to the territories, reported yesterday in committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. Levy, of Florida, the rules were suspended, and the House resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Davis, of Indiana, took the Chair.

The subject before the Committee from yesterday, being the bill providing for the admission of Florida and Iowa into the Union, as States, was taken up. The question was on the amendment offered by Mr. Duncan, which reduces the boundary fixed in the bill, for the State of Iowa, so as to make it embrace fewer square miles.

Mr. Vinton, of Ohio, supported the amendment in a very lucid speech.

The amendment of Mr. Duncan prevailed—limiting the boundary to the smaller era of territory.

The amendment having prevailed, a motion was made to strike out the proviso from the clause which admitted Florida into the Union. The proviso authorised the division of Florida into two States; and that the Constitution of that admitted first, declared that the Florida Legislature should not abolish slavery.

Mr. Hunt opposed the proviso, and Mr. Levy of Florida, replied.

The proviso was struck out, by a vote of 87 to 56.

Mr. Morse of Maine, moved an amendment, that Florida should not be admitted until another General Assembly, in Florida, repeals the 16th article of the proposed constitution, which forbids the General Assembly to abolish slavery.

Mr. A. V. Brown of Tenn. opposed the amendment at length, when a motion was made that the Committee rise.

The vote was counted by tellers—aye 76, nays 26.

The Chair—(Mr. Davis of Ia.)—voted in the affirmative, and the Committee rose and reported progress.

A motion was made to adjourn, upon which the yeas and nays were called. The vote was—aye 69, nays 84.

A resolution was then presented, to terminate all debate upon the bill before the House in twenty minutes.

We learn, says the Cahawba (Ala.) Gazette, that a resolution has passed both branches of the Legislature, by a vote of two-thirds, to put the question of the removal of the seat of Government from Tuscaloosa, before the people in August next.

**From the Watertown, Jefferson County, Jan. 26, 18**

# THE NEWPORT MERCURY,

## Newport.

SATURDAY, FEB. 15, 1845.

The New Hampshire Democratic State Convention, which met at Concord on the 12th inst., passed a resolution declaring that the Hon. John P. Hale had renounced the nomination previously conferred on him, and the same to be null and void, and another resolution nominating John Woodbury, Esq., of Exeter as a candidate for congress in his place. It is said Mr Hale intends to take the stump, offering himself as a candidate for Congress at the March election, in defiance of the proscription with which he has been visited for his vote on the Texas question.

APPOINTMENT.—George C. Shaw, Esq., has been appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, Navy Officer for this district vice Isaac Burdick, whose term has expired.

We incline to the opinion that Mr. Shaw, will make an excellent officer; we know of few men more likely to give general satisfaction in the office.

Capt. M. Conner, of the Revenue Cutter Jackson, has been transferred to the Lake service.—The command of the Jackson will devolve on Lieut. S. Connor.

The Steamer IOLAS has resumed her trips between this place and Providence.

The Steamer NEPTUNE, which left here on Friday night of last week, has not since returned, and has probably suspended her trips for the present, on account of the obstruction of ice in Providence River.

The Hon. W. L. Dayton has been elected to the United States Senate from New-Jersey.

Gen. Cass is elected Senator from Michigan for 6 years from the 4th of March.

*Payment of the Pennsylvania Interest.* The business of paying the February interest on the State Loans commenced yesterday at the Pennsylvania Bank. It was a happy occasion for hundreds who had for years waited for their dues.—The scene in the Bank was one to excite the grateful sympathies of every beholder. Among the creditors who pressed within its walls to receive their own from the long delinquent debtor, were many women, whose care-worn faces then lighted up with the fulfillment of a hope so long deferred, were silent though powerful witnesses to the virtue of the act which called them thither. When we reflect upon the many anxious days and night of the infirm, the sick, the aged, the widow and the orphan, whose only dependence has been the faith of the State, and feel that once more their doubts, their fears are ended, and the means of their subsistence supplied, we cannot too ardently rejoice that justice is at last done them. Surely if the legislators who have so manfully determined to do this justice, had been spectators of the gratitude and delight of the portion of its recipients who reside among us, they would have felt amply compensated for their resolution. We need not exultate on benefits it will confer upon the State and country at large. Under a proper financial system, there can be no reasonable doubt that Pennsylvania will never again prove insolvent. The people are proud of her retrieved honor. They feel that in paying taxes they are obtaining value two fold for the burden; a good name and certain prosperity for their old and beloved Commonwealth. Now is the time for practical and energetic measures. If such are at once adopted, six months will be quite sufficient to supply the Treasury to the amount of claims then matured against it. As the work is begun, so let it proceed, with zeal, alacrity, and honest pride.—Phil. N. American 4th inst.

*Franconia Forever!*—We have received the following statement of the range of the thermometer for four successive days at Franconia, N. H., by which it will be seen that this celebrated place still retains its reputation for cold weather. The observations were made at 7 o'clock, A. M., at noon, and at 9 P. M. The mercury only twice rose above zero—(then but to 3 and 4 degrees)—and fell as low as 24 degrees below zero. The figures in the table indicate the degrees below zero, viz:

	7 A. M.	M. 9 P. M.
Jan. 31,	16	4
Feb. 1,	18	0
" 2,	20	0
" 3,	24	3
" 4,	10	10

The above shows the mean temperature for four days to have been about ten degrees below zero.—Salem Register.

*Florida.*—The St. Augustine (E. F.) news says that Capt. H. L. Thistle, U. S. Timber Agent, has recently seized a large quantity of Red Cedar and other timber, at the mouth of Sawnee river, cut upon the public lands by certain individuals.

### Stupendous Project—Railway to the Pacific.

Among the most important projections of the day, we notice from its magnitude both in construction and effects, that of Mr. Whitney, a distinguished merchant of New York, which is about to be laid before Congress. This enterprise contemplates nothing less than the construction of a railroad from the western shore of Lake Michigan, direct to the Columbia River, a distance of some two thousand miles, its terminus on that side to a point of debarkation for China. The road would cost fifty millions, and the time required for its completion would be twenty-five years. Eight days would convey a passenger from New York city to the termination of the track, and with the aid of steam vessels, twenty-five more would land him at Amoy in China. Thus the globe could be crossed within a month.

Through such agency we could command the Chinese market, and extend our commerce with South America, Mexico, India, and other places. In addition to this, we should secure the transportation of English trade—the shortest voyage between England and China ever made, was of eighty-five days, the average passage is nearly four months—and by this route a cargo from China via the United States would reach Liverpool within fifty days. All Mr. Whitney asks of government is a grant of sixty miles width of public land from one terminus of the road to the other, and for this a full consideration would be given in carrying mails, ammunition, stores, soldiers, and all public freight, free of charge.—New Haven Cour.

*Case of the Bishop.*—The standing committee of the diocese, Chief Justice Jones, Murray Hoffman and Julian C. Verplanck, have published a report on the case, from which we learn that it is their opinion that the Right Rev. B. T. Onderdonk is still a bishop—that he has not been degraded or deposed from his diocese or order, and that the standing committee of New York, under the suspension, has become the regularly constituted ecclesiastical authority of the diocese.

The Oxford (Miss.) Organizer gives an account of the confession of a negro recently committed to jail there, that he, with another runaway, a few days before his arrest, murdered a traveler near the Tallahatchie river, and afterwards robbing him of his money, clothing, and the horse he rode, sunk the body in the river.

*Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 7.—Descriptive Fire.*—About half-past eight last evening, in the midst of the storm, when the wind was blowing a violent gale from the north-east, a fire broke out in the long row of stone buildings on the corner of Hill and Elizabeth streets, which, with nearly all their contents, were entirely destroyed. The east end of the building was occupied by M. L. Churchill as a tannery; the centre by Beardsle & Badger, as a sash factory and carpenter shop and the upper part as a chair factory, by E. Brown. Part of the building was owned by Mr. Churchill, upon which there was an insurance of \$1000. The remainder was owned by Mr. Brown, who had no insurance, neither upon his building or furniture. Messrs. Beardsle & Badger were insured \$2000. The total loss is variously estimated at from \$15,000 to 20,000, of which only \$3000 was insured.

The severest part of the loss falls upon the numerous workmen, who, besides being thrown out of employment, lost all their tools. The machinery in the building was propelled by a steam engine, from which it is supposed the fire originated.—Democrat.

*The Comet.*—The Comet, which after being visible to us a few days, is now expiring in the southwest, has been seen in much greater brilliancy, by our Southern neighbors. A gentleman of this city, residing at Martinique, (W. I.) about fourteen degrees north of the Equator, informs us that this comet was noticed there as long since as the last day of 1844. On the 2nd of January, at 7 P. M. the comet appeared about ten degrees high, S. W. by S. The tail was eight or ten degrees long; and the nucleus was as brilliant as a star of the third magnitude.

The observations made in this country, on the place of this comet, will doubtless be sufficient to determine its elements.—But earlier and longer continued observations have unquestionably been secured at some of the observatories south of the Equator.—New Haven Herald.

*Late from Texas.*—The steamer New-York, Capt. Wright, arrived here late last night, in forty hours from Galveston. Major Donaldson, United States Charge to Texas, came passenger in her;

We do not perceive that any thing has been done towards reconciling the misunderstanding between General Green and President Jones. A large annexation meeting has been held at San Felipe. The Comanche Indians were not satisfied with the boundary run by Texas in their country.

*New Orleans Bee, 31st ult.*—A letter from Farmville, dated Feb. 11, says: Moses H. Sherman of Grafton, aged about thirty-eight years, left home on the 9th instant, with a horse and sleigh, to go to Boston. He was found about eight o'clock in the evening in Framingham, dead, supposed to have died in a fit.—Massachusetts Spy.

Lewis C. Levin, editor of the Philadelphia Sun, and member elect to Congress from Philadelphia, against whom there was an indictment for exciting to treason during the Southwark riots, in July last, was, on Wednesday, acquitted in the Court of Sessions, without the examination of a witness, Judge Jones stating the charges against Mr. L. to be illegal and unfounded.

### GREATEST DISCOVERY OF THE AGE—The Electro Magnetic Light.

Messrs. Milton Sanders and John Starr, have at last succeeded with their Light; and a brilliant affair it is. We have had the pleasure of frequently witnessing their experiments with differently formed machines, having for their objects the production of this wonderful light. Yesterday we were invited to attend the last one to be made in the West. It proved successful. The apparatus with which their light is made is small, to allow of easy transportation. But it may be increased to an indefinite extent, and with its enlargement is the increase of the size of the light. From our own observation we should suppose the power of the light could not be increased. We never could conceive a light more brilliant. Though but the size of a pea, it is sufficient to illuminate quite a large room, and forbids the steady glance of the eye. The blaze of a candle twenty feet distant from the apparatus, and three feet from it casts upon the wall a thick shadow—so much more brilliant is "the light," though not one twentieth the size of the candle's flame. What will be the power of this light when increased to the size of a gas-light? We cannot conceive.

At a distance the light looks unlike other illuminations—throwing out most beautiful rays which, finely colored, spread magnificently from the bright centre. The inventors say they can make the light of different colors, and even alternately change from one color to another. The apparatus for producing this illumination displays great ingenuity, and a thorough knowledge of that portion of science which relates to the principles they have so successfully applied.

While witnessing that portion of its operation visible to the eye, we perceived a bar of iron revolving rapidly. The bar was tolerably heavy, and nearly a foot long—and can be made to revolve with a swiftness sufficient to fling itself, in spite of all workmanship to the contrary, from its pivots. It will go weeks with undiminished velocity; and without assistance, once started, from man. This we fancy, is an approach to perpetual motion. Cannot it be applied to locomotives, &c. The inventors say, without doubt, it can! Truly this is the age of inventions. They say also, that this latter will supersede many other artificial lights—what next? Once started the light may be said thereafter to be of no expense.

The apparatus will not cost a very great amount. It may be kept in one part of the city and the light produced by connection wires in any other part.—Or it may be stowed away in the cellar or garret, as a sash factory and carpenter shop and the upper part as a chair factory, by E. Brown. Part of the building was owned by Mr. Churchill, upon which there was an insurance of \$1000. The remainder was owned by Mr. Brown, who had no insurance, neither upon his building or furniture. Messrs. Beardsle & Badger were insured \$2000. The total loss is variously estimated at from \$15,000 to 20,000, of which only \$3000 was insured.

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Moon 1st qtr. 13th 11th 30m afternoon.

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